

We claim:

1. A method of enrolling at least one given conferee to receive conferencing services, the method comprising at least the following:

receiving at least one request from the given conferee to enroll in conferencing services;

5 receiving data representing at least one unique identifier relating to the given conferee;

providing data representing access information to the given conferee, wherein the given conferee can request access to a given conference call using the access information; and

10 configuring at least one component of a system related to supporting the at least one given conference call to connect the given conferee directly to the given conference call in response to recognition of at least one of the access information and the at least one unique identifier in at least one communication from the given conferee.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein receiving at least one request from the given conferee includes receiving a request from a host to enroll in conferencing services.

15 3. The method of claim 1, wherein receiving at least one request from the given conferee includes receiving a request from a participant associated with a given enrolled conference call host.

4. The method of claim 1, wherein receiving data representing at least one unique identifier includes obtaining data representing at least one voice print of the conferee.

20 5. The method of claim 1, wherein receiving data representing at least one unique identifier includes obtaining data representing at least one voice print of the conferee when the conferee enrolls to receive conferencing services.

6. The method of claim 1, wherein receiving data representing at least one unique identifier includes obtaining data representing at least one of an e-mail address, a Universal Resource  
25 Locator, a browser cookie, an IP address, and an SIP address.

7. The method of claim 1, wherein receiving data representing at least one unique identifier includes obtaining data representing at least one biometric parameter associated with the conferee.

8. A method of enrolling at least one given conference call host to receive conferencing services, the method comprising at least the following:

receiving at least one request from the given conference call host to enroll in conferencing services;

5 receiving data representing at least one unique identifier relating to the given conference call host;

providing data representing access information to the given conference call host, wherein the given conference call host can request access to a given conference call using the access information; and

10 configuring at least one component of a system related to supporting the at least one given conference call to connect the given conference call host directly to the given conference call in response to recognition of at least one of the access information and the at least one unique identifier in at least one communication from the given conference call host.

15 9. The method of claim 8, wherein receiving data includes receiving data representing the at least one unique identifier associated to at least one device from which the given conference call host may originate at least one request to access the given conference call.

10. The method of claim 8, wherein receiving data includes receiving a unique telephone number to be dialed by the given conference call host.

20 11. The method of claim 8, wherein receiving data includes receiving data representing the unique identifier from the given conference call host.

12. The method of claim 8, wherein receiving data includes receiving data representing the unique identifier from a device associated with the given conference call host.

25 13. The method of claim 8, wherein providing data includes providing at least one telephone number to the given conference call.

14. The method of claim 8, wherein configuring at least one component includes configuring the component to connect the given conference call host directly to the given conference call in response to recognition of the access information and the at least one unique identifier.

15. The method of claim 8, wherein receiving at least one request includes receiving at least one request from the given conference call host to subscribe to pre-paid conferencing services.
16. The method of claim 8, wherein receiving at least one request includes receiving at least one communication from the given conference call host to subscribe to conferencing services.
- 5 17. The method of claim 16, wherein receiving data representing at least one unique identifier includes automatically capturing the data representing the at least one identifier during the communication.
18. The method of claim 17, wherein automatically capturing the data includes automatically capturing data identifying a handset from which the communication originated.
- 10 19. The method of claim 18, wherein configuring at least one component includes populating at least part of a data store with the data identifying the handset.
20. The method of claim 8, further comprising receiving data representing at least a further unique identifier being associated with at least a further handset from which the given conference call host may initiate at least one communication to access conferencing services.
- 15 21. The method of claim 8, wherein receiving data representing at least one unique identifier includes receiving data representing a plurality of telephone numbers corresponding to a plurality of respective handsets from which the given conference call host may initiate at least one communication to access conferencing services.
22. The method of claim 8, wherein receiving data representing at least one identifier  
20 includes receiving data representing at least one telephone number associated with a wired handset from which the given conference call host may initiate at least one communication to access conferencing services.
23. The method of claim 8, wherein receiving data representing at least one identifier  
25 includes receiving data representing at least one telephone number associated with a wireless handset from which the given conference call host may initiate at least one communication to access conferencing services.
24. The method of claim 8, further comprising providing to the given conference call host data representing at least a further telephone number, wherein the given conference call host can

access conferencing services to a given conference call by dialing at least the further telephone number.

25. The method of claim 8, within providing data representing at least one telephone number includes providing data representing a telephone number dedicated to only the given conference  
5 call host.

26. The method of claim 8, wherein providing data representing at least one telephone number includes providing data representing a telephone number shared by a plurality of conference call hosts.

27. The method of claim 8, wherein configuring at least one component includes configuring  
10 at least one software component to connect the given conference call host directly to the given conference call in response to recognizing at least one of the telephone number and the at least one unique identifier in connection with at least one communication received from the given conference call host.

28. The method of claim 8, wherein configuring at least one component includes loading at  
15 least data representing the at least one unique identifier into a data store supporting a process by which the given conference call host subscribes to conferencing services.

29. The method of claim 8, wherein configuring at least one component includes loading at least data representing the at least one unique identifier into a data store so as to enable at least one software component to recognize the telephone number and the at least one identifier in  
20 connection with at least one communication received from the given conference call host.

30. The method of claim 8, wherein configuring at least one component includes configuring at least one voice response unit to connect the given conference call host directly to the given conference call in response to recognizing the at least one unique identifier in connection with at least one communication received from the given conference call host.

31. The method of claim 8, wherein configuring at least one component includes configuring at least one voice response unit to connect the given conference call host directly to the given conference call in response to recognizing at least the unique identifier and the telephone number in connection with at least one communication received from the given conference cal host.  
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32. The method of claim 8, wherein configuring at least one component includes configuring at least one server to connect the given conference call host directly to the given conference call in response to recognizing at least the at least one unique identifier in connection with at least one communication received from the given conference call host.
- 5 33. The method of claim 8, wherein configuring at least one component includes configuring at least one data store supporting at least one server that is adapted to connect the given conference call host directly to the given conference call in response to recognizing the at least one unique identifier in connection with at least one communication received from the given conference call host.
- 10 34. The method of claim 8, wherein configuring at least one component includes configuring the at least one component to connect the given conference call host directly to the given conference call.
35. The method of claim 8, wherein configuring at least one component includes configuring the at least one component to connect the given conference call host directly to an existing  
15 conference call.
36. The method of claim 8, wherein configuring at least one component includes configuring the at least one component to connect the given conference call host directly to a new conference call created in response to receiving a communication from the given conference call host.
37. The method of claim 8, wherein configuring at least one component includes configuring  
20 the at least one component to connect the given conference call host directly to the given conference call without any further input from the given conference call host.
38. The method of claim 8, wherein configuring at least one component includes configuring the at least one component to connect the given conference call host directly to the given conference call without entry of any further data by the given conference call host.
- 25 39. The method of claim 8, wherein configuring at least one component includes configuring the at least one component to connect the given conference call host directly to the given conference call without entry of any further data by the given conference call host, besides dialing a telephone number to access conferencing services.

40. The method of claim 8, wherein configuring at least one component includes configuring the at least one component to connect the given conference call host directly to the given conference call by bypassing entry of at least one conference pass code by the given conference call host.

5 41. At least one program storage device readable by at least one machine, tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable by the machine to perform a method of enrolling at least one given conferee to receive conferencing services, the method comprising at least the following:

receiving at least one request from the given conferee to enroll in conferencing services;

10 receiving data representing at least one unique identifier relating to the given conferee;

providing data representing access information to the given conferee, wherein the given conferee can request access to a given conference call using the access information; and

15 configuring at least one component of a system related to supporting the at least one given conference call to connect the given conferee directly to the given conference call in response to recognition of at least one of the access information and the at least one unique identifier in at least one communication from the given conferee.

42. Apparatus for enrolling at least one given conferee to receive conferencing services, the method comprising at least the following:

20 means for receiving at least one request from the given conferee to enroll in conferencing services;

means for receiving data representing at least one unique identifier relating to the given conferee;

25 means for providing data representing access information to the given conferee, wherein the given conferee can request access to a given conference call using the access information; and

means for configuring at least one component of a system related to supporting the at least one given conference call to connect the given conferee directly to the given

conference call in response to recognition of at least one of the access information and the at least one unique identifier in at least one communication from the given conferee.